



Photo courtesy of Carbon Canyon Fire Safe Council

In light of budget cuts, the newly opened Chino Hills State Park Discovery Center will be the site for a series of activities sponsored by volunteers with the Interpretive Association.

State Park to close Tuesday-Thursday

By Marianne Napoles

Chino Hills State Park will be closed Tuesdays through Thursdays beginning Oct. 1 due to state budget cuts.

The park will remain open Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. for the rest of the summer and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in winter.

The park is one of many in the Inland Empire District slated for service reductions. "In order to maintain high quality service and public safety standards during high-peak visitor periods on weekends and holidays, we have no choice but to reduce services during slower non-peak periods," said Ron Krueper, Inland Empire District Superintendent.

He said the cost to operate and staff a State Park on a non-peak weekday is significant and cannot be offset by the fees collected at park entrances.

The budget for the California Department of Parks and Recreation experienced an \$11 million reduction in the 2011-12 fiscal year, and a \$22 million reduction in fiscal year 2012-13, he said.

Mr. Krueper is optimistic that additional funding will be found for upcoming fiscal years.

A volunteer group has been stepping up to the plate to maintain the park and to launch a series of activities now that the visitor's center, called the Discovery Center, has opened on Carbon Canyon Road on the Brea side of the park.

Melanie Schlotterbeck,

secretary-treasurer for the Chino Hills State Park Interpretive Association (CHSPIA), said the group is surveying its supporters and members to find out what they want from the park in terms of recreation programs and activities.

"We faced a lot of challenges in the last few years, starting with the Freeway Complex fire in 2008, followed by rains that caused closures due to mudslides, and budget cuts," she said. "All sorts of things complicated our ability to hold programs and events."

She said the California State Parks Foundation is trying to bolster activities throughout the state and has partnered with other groups to offer consistent volunteer support through its "Park Champions Program." The foundation has chosen the Chino Hills State Park for its first work day from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 17.

Volunteers will clear the "Hills for Everyone" trail that has become overgrown. Ms. Schlotterbeck said registration is required by visiting calparks.org/parkchampions and clicking on the Chino Hills link. To learn more about the Chino Hills State Park Interpretive Association, visit chinohillssatepark.org or call Neil Connolly, president, at 964-0348.

Vehicle entry fee to the park is \$8, and camping fee is \$15. There is no "iron ranger" set up at the Discovery Center yet so entry will be free from the Brea side for another month or so.

County looks into hot food trucks

Hot food trucks could become available for use at private events within San Bernardino County subject to regulation by local governments.

The county board of supervisors voted 5-0 at its Aug. 9 meeting to direct staff to draft an ordinance that would create a new category of hot food truck events allowed in the county.

San Bernardino County currently allows hot food trucks to operate at community events, organized by public entities or local governments.

The ordinance to be presented at a future board of supervisors meeting, if adopted, would allow organizers of private events to hire the trucks. Those events would still be subject to state code requiring restrooms within 200 feet of food preparation trucks when they are stationary for an hour or more and governing waste and gray water disposal.

The board stopped short of directing staff to develop an ordinance that would allow the trucks to operate county-wide subject to local municipal regulation. Although Second District Supervisor Janice Rutherford and First District

Supervisor Brad Mitzelfelt favored that option, a third vote was not to be found.

Ms. Rutherford pointed out that only San Bernardino and Riverside counties do not allow food trucks to operate at private events and businesses.

Mr. Mitzelfelt said private companies should have the right to invite the trucks to their premises to sell food to their employees.

Environmental Health Services Chief Terri Williams told the board the county restricts hot food trucks in part because the health risks they pose are greater than those encountered at stationary restaurants. Hot food trucks are cited 10 times more often than are restaurants, she said, even though inspectors frequently have a hard time finding the trucks to perform the inspections.

Don Lugo High in Chino was the site of the first hot food truck festival held in the county, in April. The fundraiser brought in more than \$12,000 for the Chino Valley Unified School District. Another festival is set for 3 to 7 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 17, also at Don Lugo High.

Edison keeps sites secret after protest

The Tehachapi project construction update for the week of Aug. 15 to 19 provided by Southern California Edison did not identify the locations where crews would be working.

The weekly memo was the first to omit the information since the Aug. 10 protest when 140 residents blocked Edison trucks from accessing a construction site at the old city yard on Pipeline Avenue near Eucalyptus.

The memo stated only that installation of a foundation for a new electrical transmission structure would take place and that one tubular steel pole and one lattice steel structure would be erected.

SCE spokesman Paul Klein said the locations were not provided to "help ensure the safety of SCE crews, contractors, and the public." Mr. Klein said safety is SCE's number one priority.

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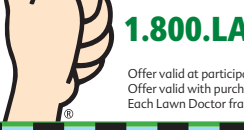
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